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# CENTENNIAL ADDRESS.

BY SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD.

DELIVERED AT TRENTON, N. J. FEB. 22, 1832.

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*Trenton, February* 14, 1832.

Sir,

The Legislative Council and House of Assembly having each appointed a committee of their own body, to unite with a committee of the citizens of Trenton, to make arrangements for celebrating the centennial birth day of Washington, the father of his country; these committees, in a meeting held this day for executing the trust reposed in them, have unanimously made choice of you to deliver the Oration on the occasion, and have deputed us to apprise you of their choice, and to request your acceptance of the appointment. From a conviction that no one will give more general satisfaction to the public, or do more honor to the occasion, permit us to add our earnest hope that you will return a favorable answer. We shall be gratified to receive it by the stage that brings you this.

We are with sentiments of great respect,

Your friends,

John Wilson,
William R. Allen. } *Committee.*

*Samuel L. Southard, Esq., Attorney General.*

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*To John Wilson and Wm. R. Allen, Esqrs., Committee, &c.*

Sirs,

I have been honored by your letter of the 14th, which informs me, that the Legislative Council and House of Assembly have each appointed a committee of their own body, to unite with a committee of the citizens of Trenton, to make arrangements for celebrating the centennial birth day of

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Washington, the father of his country; that these committees, in a meeting held for executing the trust reposed in them, unanimously made choice of me to deliver the Oration on the occasion, and that they deputed you to apprise me of their choice, and to request my acceptance of the appointment.

The near approach of the day—the feeble state of my health—my absence from home—and the pressure of official and professional engagements, will render it extremely difficult for me to comply with this request. But an invitation emanating from such a source, to partake in the discharge of a duty in which every patriotic heart will take an interest, commands my acquiescence, and I do not feel at liberty to refuse. I tender to you my thanks for the kind terms in which you have made this communication to me—and am

Very respectfully &c.

SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD.

*Mount Holly*, 16 *Feb.* 1832.

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*Trenton, February* 23, 1832.

*Samuel L. Southard, Esq.*

SIR,

The undersigned take great pleasure in performing the duty assigned them by the joint committees of the members of the Legislature of New Jersey and of the citizens of Trenton, of presenting to you the thanks of those they represent, for the able and eloquent Oration delivered by you at their request, on the 22d inst., the centennial anniversary of the birth of George Washington, and of requesting of you the favor of a copy for publication. We have the honor to be,

With great respect,

Your obedient servants,

I. H. WILLIAMSON,
JEHU PATTERSON,
JAMES D. WESTCOTT.

*To Isaac H. Williamson, Jehu Patterson and James D. Westcott Esquires, Committee, &c. &c.*

Sirs,

I have to acknowledge your request, for a copy of the Address delivered by me, on the 22d inst.; you are aware of the extreme haste with which it was written, and which precluded the possibility of that careful preparation, which my respect for those who called for its delivery, would, under other circumstances, have demanded. My other engagements, and the necessity I am under, of leaving home, now prevent the revision, which I should otherwise think it my duty to bestow upon it. It is therefore reluctantly committed to you, in its present form—but the feelings which dictated obedience to your invitation, require compliance with your present request.

I am, Sirs, very respectfully, &c. &c.

Samuel L. Southard.

*Trenton, 25th Feb.* 1832.

P. J. GRAY, PRINTER,
TRENTON, N. J.

# ADDRESS.

A SPECTACLE of moral grandeur is this day exhibited before the civilized world. These constituted authorities of our Government—this assembled multitude can have been moved by no ordinary cause, by no evanescent feeling. They have combined publicly to acknowledge a debt of gratitude, which they owe—to proclaim their admiration of the Providential instrument by which their liberty was accomplished, and to leave to their children, an united testimony in favor of human rights. And they are not alone. The Government of a confederacy of nations—a powerful, free, intelligent and jealous people, are tendering the same homage at the same shrine.

Whence, whence, this great movement? The name of Washington, which fills every bosom, and bursts from every lip, announces the cause, and justifies the effect. People and Government, have equal reason to manifest their abiding sense of the favor of Providence, which gave to us so efficient an instrument in securing our prosperity and happiness. A century of years have rolled on since that gift was made, and in their course have presented no parallel object of love and admiration. One third of a century has elapsed since *our father* was taken from us; and although at

every hour in its progress, we have felt and enjoyed the blessings of his services and example, we overlooked and forgot the solemn pledge which was given in the hour of our grief by the representatives of our will—yet, to-day, the promise has been recollected, and the pledge redeemed, so far as our power extends to its accomplishment. The Government of the land has sought to execute the unanimous resolution of Seventeen hundred and ninety-nine, and to place the remains of our fellow citizen—not by the side of kings and emperors, for he was not one of them, nor partook in the titles and trappings of their illegitimate authority—not among the tombs of other great and good men, for in life and action, he did not move in the sphere of the common great—but as the first and worthiest citizen among freemen—alone—in the centre of the capitol of a growing empire, whose birth he witnessed, whose renown he advanced—there to remain under a nation's guardianship and power, while that empire shall stand—a perpetual monument, to remind us of the glory of the past—of the duties of the present, and the obligations of coming times. The effort has failed, but the wish has been recorded; and posterity will learn, that amidst all our conflicts of feeling and opinion, in our veneration for Washington, we were an united people.

The occasion bids me remind you of him and of his actions—of the example which he gave, and of the lessons which he taught; and mingled as they are, with all that is great and good in human character, and interwoven as they have been, with a nation's history, and the establishment of the institutions which

form the purest models of legalized and constitutional liberty; and acting, as they must, on the future hopes of freedom and the destinies of the human race, I feel that to speak of them without fitting preparation, is inexcusable folly—but the command under which I appear leaves me no alternative, and I fly to the feelings of the heart, there to find an apology for the feebleness of the portraiture. These feelings, in speaker and hearer, demand the sacrifice of every selfish consideration—the forgetfulness of every party strife—the triumph of virtuous and patriotic emotion. We have come as to a father's grave; there to celebrate his birth, to enumerate his virtues, and exult that he was ours and our country's.

But where shall we begin and where end this duty? The story of his life cannot be told in the brief space of a passing hour. The lightning flight of thought itself, could not glance at all that memory would delight to recal, and the glowing colors of poetry and eloquence would be required to finish the portrait; but these are not mine, and you must be content with a hasty, unadorned reference to a few of the incidents of his eventful life, and plain suggestions of the instruction to be drawn from his actions and his death: and these made, not in the spirit of idolatry for a fellow man, but with profound gratitude to Heaven, which created such an agent for human good.

George Washington was not born to the affluence which many of his fellow citizens possessed, and which might have relaxed the exertions of his youth, and weakened the energy of his virtues. His education was not extensively classical and liberal; but the ear-

liest lessons which he learned, were those of truth, integrity, filial reverence and piety towards God. A father's counsel and a mother's love, impressed these principles, and nurtured the infancy of his mighty mind, and gave it that decided and manly firmness which sustained him in every vicissitude and trial, and enabled him to erect that magnificence of character, which stands without a rival. Shall not we, who are fathers and mothers, remember this truth, that our sons may receive the blessing?

The selected exercises and sports of his youth, were of the active and athletic kind, which gave vigor to his body, and left the heart untainted and the mind unhurt. He was early, but virtuously bent on fame. Influenced, perhaps, by the colonial condition and relations of his native land, he would have sought it in the fleet of the mother country, whose track has been said to be upon the mountain wave, and her home upon the deep; but this was not the road which Providence designed him to travel, and a mother's tenderness was made the agent to restrain him, and direct him to another, and which, in the end, and without her design, proved a nobler career.

From the age of nineteen, when he had conquered the confidence of his native state, so far as to hold the office of Adjutant General, up to the moment when he closed his presidential labors, every step in the progress of our country, is a portion of his biography. The stations which he filled were numerous, but he did not select any one of them except the first; for his was the popularity which followed virtuous deeds. His temper, his firmness, his unfaltering perseverance,

his sound, practical foresight of the future, were all exhibited on that first occasion. When Governor Dinwiddie desired to send to the French commander, a warning not to encroach upon the British dominions by extending his chain of fortifications along the Ohio, he knew not where to procure an agent equal to an enterprise which required perseverance and skill, and was beset by all the dangers, which an untraversed wilderness and hostile savages could create. Washington, then less than twenty-two years old, tendered his services for this enterprise, and in its performance, and the journal which accompanied his report, exhibited an accurate knowledge of the country, a prophetic anticipation of events, a profound observation of the character of the enemy and his savage allies, which extorted the applause of his countrymen; and if they had profited by his wisdom and ability to serve them, the desolation of their frontiers would have been less calamitous, the mountains and rivers would not have been reddened by the blood of Virginians, nor the hills of the Monongahela, whitened for ages, by the bones of the slaughtered men whom the proud and self confident Braddock commanded. It was on the accomplishment of that enterprise, and the presentation of this journal, that the incident occurred, which so beautifully illustrated the modesty and sensibility of feeling which accompanied him through all the successes of his splendid life. On his entering the gallery of the House of Delegates, unaware of the praise which he had extorted, the Speaker stated, that it had been proposed that the thanks of the House should be given to Major Washington, for

the gallant manner in which he had executed the trust reposed in him. The House rose and saluted him with expressions of approbation. He sought to return his acknowledgments, but his tongue refused its office. All that he could utter, upon three successive efforts, was the words "Mr. Speaker," and he was relieved by the Speaker saying to him, "Major Washington, sit down, your modesty alone is equal to your merits." He whose capacious mind embraced the wide interests of his country—who never trembled amidst the thickest and most appalling dangers, was silenced and unnerved by the thanks which were his due.

From this period, up to his appointment as the commander of our armies, he was principally occupied in the defence of his fellow citizens from the incursions of their savage foes, or ministering to their prosperity and freedom in the halls of legislation—both in his own state and in that Congress whose wisdom and firmness so effectually guarded our rights. He encountered every hardship, and was often in perils, from which it seems almost incredible that he should have escaped uninjured; but he was shielded by that power, which could turn aside the Indian's arrow, or the rifle's aim, and save him for the high destiny to which he was designed.

In his political opinions, he always sustained his country's rights against the claims of her oppressor, and in legislation, was the unwavering advocate of just laws and legalized liberty. And every hour not only augmented the confidence of his immediate fellow citizens, but extended his fame, so that the way was prepared for that proud exhibition of patriotism,

when the elder Adams and others, the representatives of rival states, forgetting their personal predilections and local prejudices, with full hearts, and looking only at their country, chose him as the leader of the armies of liberty. On this choice, depended, in a great degree, not the liberties of this land alone—but its consequences were to operate through the long ages which shall precede the final victory of human rights over the powers of despotism, and facilitate that victory. And well did the choice befit the time; and well have the results testified to the wisdom of the choice. The pious heart will scarcely resist the suggestion, that here was a peculiar manifestation of an interposing Providence. This choice was made at the time when the soul of Warren took its flight, and his blood cried for the avenger of liberty—and the avenger was found.

He received this appointment with his own characteristic diffidence—"I beg," said he, "it may be remembered that I this day declare, with the utmost sincerity, that I do not think myself equal to the command with which I am honored;" but his diffidence, to use his own expression, when he afterwards resigned the trust, "was superceded by a confidence in the rectitude of the cause, and the patronage of Heaven;" and with unhesitating self devotion, he entered upon *his trust*, and never was one more wisely met, or more amply repaid. I shall not fatigue you with the story of the battles which he fought; or the tribulations which he endured: but there is one portion of the history; one incident of the struggle, which, standing where I do, and in the presence of this people, it would be unpar-

donable to overlook. We are Jerseymen, and on our narrow territory, a large portion of his labors were expended, a goodly share of his glory was won. Our fathers witnessed, and their children should speak of them. We stand too, upon the spot, consecrated by patriot blood—where the first bright ray of light broke in upon the gloom with which our country's hopes were enveloped, and where too, every distinguishing trait, in the character of the great warrior was displayed. The Declaration of Independence had been succeeded by a rapid succession of defeats, of depressing misfortunes; and the twenty-fifth of December, seventeen hundred and seventy-six, found him and the country in a position, in which to have despaired would scarcely have been criminal. The powerful army of the victorious enemy, possessed that proud city, which is now the commercial emporium of the Union, and destined ere long to hold the same rank, in the whole commercial world—occupied every portion of the territory of our State; and threatened the capital of the confederacy—while an irresistible fleet waited its commands, and aided its movements. Before this power, he had retreated from point to point, until the waters of the Delaware were interposed, as a feeble barrier; but he had done so, in that spirit, which declared, "If we can do no better, we will retreat over every river in America, and last of all, over the mountains, whence we shall not lack opportunities to annoy, and finally, I hope, to expel the enemies of our country." He commanded only a miserable remnant of three thousand men, and had not even clothing to guard them from the winter's frost, nor the sustenance

necessary to support them—and in one short week a large part of that little remnant, was to leave him. He looked around, for relief, in vain—from no quarter was succor promised. Despair brooded over the country, and many of the stoutest hearts quailed beneath the pressure of their fears. But despair came not near to him. From the Rock where his trust was anchored, he heard the voice, "fear not, for *I* am with thee." Perceiving that by a concerted movement upon Trenton, Bordentown and Burlington, he might at each point assail a force superior to his own, and perhaps by surprise, succeed in dispersing and driving back the enemy, he made the effort with a promptness and energy never surpassed by any leader. The plan at the other points, was rendered impracticable, by the severity of the weather and the state of the river; but where he himself commanded, the passage was accomplished after five hours exertion, amidst ice and snow and hail, the very tempest of the elements—some of his men perishing from cold, and all benumbed and enfeebled. Although he crossed his whole force over the Delaware, within nine miles of the enemy, he would himself have been the messenger which bore the information to them—but the delay occasioned by the condition of the river, prevented the entire surprise which he intended—and gave the enemy, superior in numbers and discipline, fresh and vigorous, opportunity of preparation for the conflict. He looked at his small, ill clad, benumbed and exhausted band; the contest seemed to promise little hope; but he felt that the great issue, depended much on the results of that hour, and in his

own emphatic language to a friend, he "determined to trust in God and his sword, and go forward." The victory was obtained. On this spot the trophy of his genius was erected—and *here*, he turned back the tide of misfortune. His loss was comparatively small; but among the wounded, there was one, whom I love to mention, when the actions of the good and great are subjects of eulogy. He was *Monroe*, the volunteer youth of nineteen, who here evidenced with his blood, the sincerity of his love to that country, which he has since served with a purity of purpose, with a self devotion and constancy of effort, inferior only to him by whom he was commanded.

Though not strong enough to hold fast his conquest, and compelled to retreat, in less than ten days afterwards, and on the very day that many of his men were entitled to their discharge, we find Washington again on this same theatre, fronting with such troops, a recruited, disciplined and powerful army—who exultingly waited only for the coming light to overwhelm him. When that light came, the patriot army was not to be seen by the astonished foe, but the echoes of battle, from the heights of Princeton, told them where it was to be found, and how employed. And there, again, victory rewarded the hazardous enterprise—and the blood of *Mercer* gave sacredness to the triumph.

This exhibition of military skill and enterprise, revived the drooping spirits of a desponding people, and extorted the applause of Europe. He had been regarded as the Fabius; he was now the Marcellus of the war. His caution, firmness, promptness in expe-

dient, intrepidity in action, boldness of enterprise and fortitude in trial, gave him a rank in military fame corresponding with that which he held in the affections of his country. He enjoyed an uncontrolled dominion in the hearts of those whom he led, through afflictions to victory—and gloriously did he exhibit that dominion, when at the close of the war, his troops, with arms in their hands, demanded from justice, the relief of their wants; and nothing short of his power, could have restrained them from enforcing their demands. For such an act, Britain would have erected a monument; Rome, in her proudest days, would have decreed a triumph.

The jealous spirit of liberty had looked with some alarm at his power, when the command of all the armies was assigned to him. The examples of the common herd of heroes, were remembered; and on more than one public occasion, the hope was expressed to him, that he would be willing to resign that power, when the object of it was accomplished. They did not then comprehend the spirit of the man. He was not only willing, but he did make the surrender, under circumstances without a parallel in human annals. It was not to a mighty monarch, whose subject he was, and the power of whose dominions might be brought to enforce his commands—it was not to an organized and powerful metropolitan government, which could marshal the provinces of the empire to execute its mandates—it was to a disjointed and enfeebled confederacy—to a small assembly of men, who represented that confederacy, and who, without his aid, were powerless to execute their purposes. In that assembly there

was one, whose position illustrates the magnanimity of the act, and enhances the glory of the scene. The subaltern, to whom I have alluded, as wounded at this place, was there; and into the hands of that subaltern, with others, as the representatives of the people, his Commander-in-Chief surrendered his commission and his power! What are the triumphs of Pharsalia and Austerlitz, and Waterloo, to such a triumph as this! Justly did the President of that assembly, with emotion, declare to him—"Having defended the standard of liberty in this new world, having taught a lesson useful to those who inflict, and to those who feel oppression, you retire from the great theatre of action, with the blessings of your fellow citizens—but the glory of your virtues will not terminate with your military command, it will continue to the remotest ages;"—and it will so continue. The language of every civilized nation, in which that glory is rehearsed, must be forgotten, before it can cease to travel onward with augmenting greatness.

Let it not be imagined that these reflections result from a conviction, that the continuance of his authority, and the assumption of despotic military power by him, would have been an easy task. The spirit of that day, would have rendered it necessary for him to travel through fields of blood, before he could have consolidated that power—but was his magnanimity less glorious?—was the example less illustrious? It proved that he was willing to surrender power—was worthy of his compatriots—of his country—and of the cause; those compatriots, too, were worthy of him. A single traitor only, was found in all their ranks; and

they who survived him and remain, to this day, whether in prosperity or adversity, are the subjects of affectionate regard. Even the humble garments of the pensioner, who faithfully followed his standard, are honored by patriotic feeling. Would that the gratitude of the government had been less tardy, in manifesting its sense of obligation!

But the glory of the warrior is never complete, until crowned by the greener laurels which grow in peace. Success in battles, often leaves the victors more wretched than the vanquished. Peace only can nurture the growth of human happiness, and he who deposits with posterity a fame, connected only with the sword, will hazard the loss of that renown for which he fought. But he, who having triumphed in a just cause, shall aid in confirming the rights for which he contended, and labor to perpetuate their enjoyment, need not fear lest execrations, instead of blessings, shall accompany his name. Washington, like others, saw the prize which had been won, in jeopardy, from the feebleness of that bond which connected the separate portions of his country. An Union, not a confederacy—a government, capable of enforcing the public wishes, not a compact which was without the power to guard against infractions of its will, was needed for the prosperity and growth of the nation. It was needed also, to hold out to a doubting world, the evidence that a democracy may be strong, peaceful and permanent. The convention, in which an effort was to be made to accomplish these objects, recalled Washington again to the service of his country. A revolution was then to be effected, greater than that

which had changed colonies into independent powers. In the one, the battle of liberty had been fought; in the other, that liberty was to be secured—in the one, foreign control was to be discarded; in the other, independence of that control was to be maintained—in the one, the interests of all combined to insure the victory; in the other, these interests were to be reconciled and rendered coincident—in the one, thirteen confederated colonies were to be made free; in the other, thirteen separate and independent, free states, were to be bound together, on equal terms, and those terms ensuring the reign of law and civil order.

It was a task worthy of Washington and the men by whom it was essayed—nor should it surprise, that even they could not present a scheme for its attainment to meet the unanimous concurrence of a people, suspicious of arbitrary power, though fraught with wisdom, and worthy of an age of enlightened and chastened freedom. For the value of its particular form and provisions, we are doubtless indebted more to others, than to Washington; but for its ultimate adoption, the principal obligation is due to him. His name recommended it to popular affection. It demanded large concessions of authority from local pride and interests; his advice assured them that these concessions were meant for good and not evil. It transferred the control over the public purse; they felt, that he who was wise to foresee danger, and had refused all emolument for public services without count and beyond price, would not, for selfish or unworthy considerations, place the public treasury in unsafe hands. It made an absolute surrender

of the sword; but they knew that he who had voluntarily deposited the sword in the sanctuary of the law, would not withdraw it, to be wielded for the prostration of the law. In the construction of its terms, it was susceptible of encircling extensive and magnificent powers; but they foresaw, that they could confer on him the first opportunity to expound it:—and their confidence in him, constrained the assent of thousands. Under these circumstances, he owed it to them—to his own precious name with posterity —to the cause of human freedom in after times, to accept its administration; to aid in establishing its construction, and to set an example of internal and external policy, persuasive with those who should succeed him. He did meet this demand, and by his wisdom as a statesman, completed that monument of human glory which shall last when cenotaphs and pyramids shall have crumbled into dust.

I need not recur to the principles by which he was governed, and the policy he pursued. When he was about to resign his civil authority, as he had before resigned his military power, he left to us, his political legacy—which has this day been read to us—and we shall best honor his memory, by a reverential regard for the principles it contains. In every line of it we read the language of a father's heart, solicitous for the welfare of his children—the wisdom of a statesman, who embraced within his comprehension the widest interests of his country and of man—the friend of equal and just laws—the lover of the Union as the ark of safety, which must not be approached with unhallowed purposes—the advocate of civil liberty

throughout the world. It is a precious legacy—and if, on that height of prosperity on which we stand, we will but listen to its warnings, in our aspirations of ambition—in the exacerbations of local interests and passions—in the mad strugglings of party strife, we shall act wisely for ourselves—safely for our country, and justly to his fame, which forms so fair a portion of our rich inheritance. We need not fear that we shall elevate him too highly in our praises; or copy too closely his bright example. It is the deliberate judgment, pronounced not by this country alone, but by all countries, that in purity, as well as splendor of character and magnitude of service to the happiness of his fellow creatures, he stands without an equal. With whom shall we compare him? Alexander? Cæsar? Napoleon? the heroes of every age? They commanded larger armies; slaughtered more human beings; and sometimes exhibited a few of the virtues of humanity; but unlike him, they were fierce and bloody, cruel from disposition or policy; and with remorseless fury, trampled down the rights and feelings of others. Shall we compare him with Epaminondas and Scipio the elder? The one was inferior in the extent and compass of his views, the justice of his policy towards the sister states of Greece, and did not live to crown his fame by the surrender of his power. The other, though virtuous and just, the friend of peace, and adorning the age in which he lived, had not to contend with superior science, and force, and discipline, nor to struggle with accumulated difficulties in the creation of his means of action in a young and feeble country. His triumphs over Han-

nibal were the effects of Roman power and organization. Trajan and Aurelius, Alfred and Gustavus, and Germanicus and many others, were illustrious men; but they sought power, for its own sake, and lived rather for themselves, than their country.—Washington alone, rose above every selfish consideration, and lived for his country and mankind.

It is not chiefly for his military deeds, that I would present him as the object of veneration to the old, and of imitation to the young. All cannot be commanders of armies—and under the favor of Heaven, we hope to meet no crisis in which a large portion of his military virtues may be imitated—but, all may be virtuous citizens—all may adopt the principles which governed his life—all may seek the high reward of good purposes, and aim at noble ends, by noble means. He was calm in all his deliberations—prompt, yet correct in decision—ardent, yet cautious and persevering in execution—with a fortitude which disaster and misfortune could not shake—a prudence which was never disconcerted—a wisdom which always discerned the right course—with strong native passions, wisely controlled and governed, impelling him forward, yet obedient to the dictates of his judgment—and above all, possessing that decision and moral courage which dared to do whatever conscience and duty required. These high attributes of character, resulted from principle and discipline. He was modest, and never courted applause. He attributed "to the interposition of Providence, and not in any degree to his personal agency, the complicated and mighty

events of the revolution, and the adoption of the general government; claiming only, the merit due to an honest zeal for the good of his country." His desire was to do right, and he never faltered in the pursuit. He was widely benevolent and extensively charitable—indefatigable in industry. He saw clearly the only safe foundation on which a system of free laws, and self government can rest, and he was therefore the friend and munificent patron of education. It was his favorite maxim, that "there exists, in the economy of nature, an inseparable connexion, between duty and advantage." He openly avowed his belief in the Record of eternal truth, and the avenue opened for guilty man to find forgiveness—and from the elevation on which he stood, proclaimed, that "the smiles of Heaven, can never be expected on a nation, that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which Heaven itself has ordained." Such was the man—and these, "the great principles of magnanimity and wisdom," which he regarded as forming "the basis of sound policy and durable glory." And such he continued, unchanging in his course, until death. When Epaminondas was asked, which was the greater man, he or Pelopidas—he answered "*wait till we die.*" It is perseverance to the end, in virtuous conduct, which gives beauty and perfection to human character—and to this the claim of Washington is complete.

We may then love—and venerate—and seek to imitate him! And as a centennial revolution has come round, to remind us of his birth and of his virtues, the public expression of their feelings toward him be-

comes alike the people and their rulers. The appropriate expression of the feelings of the whole nation would have been the desposit of his ashes in their common Capitol—that privilege is withholden—but the century has been closed by repeating and recording the Nation's wish. It has been a century of revolution, of change, of religious, scientific and political advancement. The sciences have ceased to be, what they were, the possession of the schools, and have become common property. Morals and Religion have advanced towards their final triumph; some governments have been uprooted from their foundations; the power of tyranny has been every where shaken; the principles of equal justice have progressed; and all nations have ameliorated their laws.

And amidst all this change, with the exception of the progress of the Cross, in christian and heathen lands, there has appeared no object more dear than the life and death of the soldier of liberty; no events more imposing than those with which he has been connected. Next to Religion, Liberty is the pearl of price to the human race; and in those events are found its best illustration and its surest hopes. The example set here, by him and the men of his day, and thus far continued to us, has been seen, and felt, and followed. The institutions of Greece found no imitators—the laws of Rome no adoption but through force—the balanced government of England has excited no competition; but the American example is already penetrating the darkness of European despotism; has lighted the fires of liberty

around the palaces of kings, and planted her standard, on the highest Andes. And wherever that example has been known, the name of Washington has been heard, holding out to ambition its loftiest prize; to tyranny its strongest warning; to enslaved man, assurance of ultimate relief. Let us then, with humble and devout acknowledgments to Heaven, rejoice, that he was given to us, and to our country.

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